



Ten INL engineers participated in a French nuclear reactor summer school. From left: Francine Rice, Jared Wight, Fernilla Anderson, Roberta Concilio Hansson, Douglas Burkes, Sam Bays, John Bess and Cristian Rabiti. All except Anderson and Hansson are from the INL.

INL Sends Delegation to Prestigious French Summer School

by Megan Crepeau, *Nuclear Science & Technology Communications*

The Frederic Joliet/Otto Hahn Summer School on Nuclear Reactors (FJOH) played host to 10 Idaho National Laboratory engineers Aug. 20-29 in Aix-en-Provence, France.

Phillip Finck, INL's associate laboratory director for Nuclear Science and Technology, said the large delegation was a great accomplishment for the lab.

"That's actually very impressive," he said at a feedback session in which he met with participants to evaluate the summer school.

Overall, they said, their impressions of the school were positive, both of the technical aspects and the cultural experience.

"The technical content of the school was a broad overview of nuclear engineering," said participant Kurt Hamman. "I felt it was a really good quality school."

The theme of the 2008 summer school was "The Role of Experiments in Nuclear Reactor Simulation Analysis." Lecturers from all over the world gave speeches and seminars on diverse topics within the subject.

"The school's aim is to address the challenges of designing future reactors and optimal fuel cycles and to broaden the understanding of theory and experiments," according to official FJOH materials. The 2008 edition emphasized the importance of experiments in modeling and computer-based simulations.

Lectures were intended for post-doctorate researchers, who interacted with prominent nuclear engineering experts while enjoying French cuisine and culture. The students were clear that the cultural and academic sides of the summer school did not conflict; in fact, the two aspects of the conference complemented each other.

"I felt it was a really good mix," said INL engineer Sam Bays.

Many participants praised the opportunity to interact with other engineers from around the world.

"The technical talks were great, and they applied to Generation IV, but also the connections with international people, these were great interactions," Bays said.

Participant Francine Rice agreed.

"It feeds into that sense of community that they had," she said.

Finck said the INL community would solicit ideas from the 2008 participants to get ideas for a similar summer school to be held at INL in 2009.

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Sam Bays, left and Cristian Rabiti pose for a photo while visiting Mounstiers Ste Marie, France.